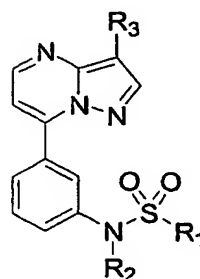


CLAIMS

1) - A compound of formula (I):



(I)

as well as pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof;

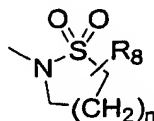
wherein

R_1 is selected from the group consisting of alkyl(C_1-C_6),
 alkenyl(C_2-C_6), ω,ω,ω -trifluoroalkyl(C_1-C_6), cycloalkyl(C_3-C_6),
 cycloalkyl(C_3-C_6)alkyl(C_1-C_6), -O-alkyl(C_1-C_6), -NH-alkyl(C_1-C_6),
 -N(dialkyl(C_1-C_6)), alkyl(C_1-C_6)-O-alkyl(C_1-C_6), alkyl(C_1-C_6)-NH-alkyl(C_1-C_6),
 alkyl(C_1-C_6)-N(dialkyl(C_1-C_6)), phenyl, monosubstituted phenyl, disubstituted phenyl,
 phenylalkyl(C_1-C_6), phenylalkenyl(C_2-C_6), furyl, substituted furyl,
 isoxazolyl, substituted isoxazolyl, pyrazolyl, substituted pyrazolyl,
 thienyl, substituted thienyl, thiazolyl, substituted thiazolyl, pyridyl and substituted pyridyl;

R_2 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl(C_1-C_6),
 alkenyl(C_2-C_6), alkynyl(C_2-C_6) and cycloalkyl(C_3-C_6);

or else

R_1 and R_2 form a cycle having the structure:



wherein n is an integer 1, 2 or 3;

5 R₃ is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen, alkyl(C₁-C₆), cycloalkyl(C₃-C₆), alkenyl(C₂-C₆), alkynyl(C₂-C₆), -O-alkyl(C₁-C₆), halo-alkyl(C₁-C₆), -CN, -SO₂-R₄, -NH-R₄, -NR₄R₅, -COR₆, -CO-NHR₆, -COOR₆, -C(NR₇)R₆, phenyl, substituted phenyl, heteroaryl and substituted heteroaryl;

R₄ and R₅ are independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl(C₁-C₆), cycloalkyl(C₃-C₆), aryl and heteroaryl;

10 R₆ is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl(C₁-C₆), alkenyl(C₂-C₆), alkynyl(C₂-C₆), cycloalkyl(C₃-C₆), phenyl, substituted phenyl, furyl, substituted furyl, thienyl, substituted thienyl, thiazolyl, substituted thiazolyl, pyridyl and substituted pyridyl;

15 R₇ is selected from the group consisting of alkyl(C₁-C₆), cycloalkyl(C₃-C₆), -OH, -O-alkyl(C₁-C₆), alkyl(C₁-C₆)-O-alkyl(C₁-C₆), alkyl(C₁-C₆)-NH-alkyl(C₁-C₆), alkyl(C₁-C₆)-N(dialkyl(C₁-C₆)), phenyl, monosubstituted phenyl, furyl, thienyl, thiazolyl and pyridyl; and

20 R₈ is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl(C₁-C₆), cycloalkyl(C₃-C₆), aryl and substituted or unsubstituted heteroaryl;

with the proviso that simultaneously:

R₁ may not be p-tolyl and R₂ methyl and R₃ benzoyl; and

25 R₁ may not be p-tolyl and R₂ ethyl and R₃ furyl-2-carbonyl.

2) - A compound according to claim 1, wherein R₁ and R₂ are independently as defined in formula (I) and R₃ is a cyano group.

30

3) - A compound according to claim 2, wherein R₁ is selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, i-propyl, n-butyl, phenyl and 4-methoxyphenyl; and

R₂ is selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, i-propyl, n-butyl, cyclopropyl and 2-propynyl.

4) - A compound according to claim 2, wherein R₁ and
5 R₂ jointly form a 1,3-propylene group.

5) - A compound according to claim 1, wherein R₁ and
R₂ are independently as defined in formula (I) and R₃ is a
thiophene-2-carbonyl group.

10

6) - A compound according to claim 5, wherein R₁ is
selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl, n-
propyl, i-propyl, n-butyl, 2-phenylethenyl, 2,2,2-
trifluoroethyl, phenyl, 2-chlorophenyl, 3-chlorophenyl, 4-
15 chlorophenyl, 2,4-dichlorophenyl, 3,4-dichlorophenyl, 2-
cyanophenyl, 3-cyanophenyl, 4-cyanophenyl, 4-methoxyphenyl,
3-nitrophenyl, 4-nitrophenyl, 2-thienyl, 5-methyl-4-
isoxazolyl, 5-methyl-2-trifluoromethyl-3-furyl, 4-(4-
morpholinyl)-3-pyridyl, 2,4-dimethyl-5-thiazolyl,
20 cyclopropyl, benzyl, vinyl, 3,5-dimethyl-4-isoxazolyl,
1,3,5-trimethyl-4-pyrazolyl and cyclopentylmethyl; and R₂
is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, methyl,
ethyl, n-propyl, i-propyl, n-butyl, cyclopropyl and 2-
propynyl.

25

7) - A compound according to claim 5 wherein R₁ and R₂
jointly form a 1,3-propylene group.

8) - A compound according to claim 1, wherein R₁ and
30 R₂ are independently as defined in formula (I) and R₃ is a
benzoyl group.

9) - A compound according to claim 8 wherein R_1 is selected from the group consisting of methyl and ethyl; and R_2 is selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl and 2-propinyl.

5

10) - A compound according to claim 1, wherein R_1 and R_2 are independently as defined in formula (I) and R_3 is a 4-fluorobenzoyl group.

10

11) - A compound according to claim 10 wherein R_1 is selected from the group consisting of methyl and ethyl; and R_2 is selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl and 2-propinyl.

15

12) - A compound according to claim 1, wherein R_1 and R_2 are independently as defined in formula (I) and R_3 is a 4-methylbenzoyl group.

20

13) - A compound according to claim 12 wherein R_1 is selected from the group consisting of methyl and ethyl; and R_2 is selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl and 2-propinyl.

25

14) - A compound according to claim 1, wherein R_1 and R_2 are independently as defined in formula (I) and R_3 is a 4-methoxybenzoyl group.

30

15) - A compound according to claim 14 wherein R_1 is selected from the group consisting of methyl and ethyl; and R_2 is selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl and 2-propinyl.

16) - A compound according to claim 1, wherein R_1 and R_2 are independently as defined in formula (I) and R_3 is a 5-methyl-1,2,4,-oxadiazol-3-yl group.

5 17) - A compound according to claim 16 wherein R_1 is methyl and R_2 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and ethyl.

10 18) - A compound according to claim 1, wherein R_1 and R_2 are independently as defined in formula (I) and R_3 is a pyridyl-2-carbonyl group.

15 19) - A compound according to claim 18 wherein R_1 is selected from the group consisting of methyl and ethyl; and R_2 is selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl and 2-propinyl.

20 20) - A compound according to claim 1, wherein R_1 and R_2 are independently as defined in formula (I) and R_3 is a pyridyl-4-carbonyl group.

25 21) - A compound according to claim 20 wherein R_1 is selected from the group consisting of methyl and ethyl; and R_2 is selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl and 2-propinyl.

30 22) - A compound according to claims 2 and 3, wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting of:
N-[3-(3-cyano-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl)-phenyl]-N-methyl-methanesulfonamide;
N-[3-(3-cyano-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl)-phenyl]-N-ethyl-methanesulfonamide;

N-[3-(3-cyano-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl)-phenyl]-N-methyl-benzenesulfonamide;

N-[3-(3-cyano-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl)-phenyl]-N-ethyl-benzenesulfonamide;

5 N-[3-(3-cyano-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl)-phenyl]-N-prop-2-ynyl-methanesulfonamide;

N-[3-(3-cyano-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl)-phenyl]-N-propyl-ethanesulfonamide;

10 N-[3-(3-cyano-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl)-phenyl]-N-ethyl-ethanesulfonamide;

N-[3-(3-cyano-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl)-phenyl]-N-prop-2-ynyl-propane-2-sulfonamide;

N-[3-(3-cyano-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl)-phenyl]-N-methyl-ethanesulfonamide;

15 N-[3-(3-cyano-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl)-phenyl]-N-butyl-ethanesulfonamide;

N-[3-(3-cyano-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl)-phenyl]-N-methyl-2-propanesulfonamide;

20 N-[3-(3-cyano-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl)-phenyl]-N-ethyl-2-propanesulfonamide;

N-[3-(3-cyano-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl)-phenyl]-N-butyl-2-propanesulfonamide;

N-[3-(3-cyano-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl)-phenyl]-N-propyl-2-propanesulfonamide; and

25 N-[3-(3-cyano-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl)-phenyl]-N-prop-2-ynyl-ethanesulfonamide.

23) - A compound according to claim 4 wherein said
30 compound is 7-(3-(2-isothiazolyldinyl-1,1-dioxide)-phenyl)-3-cyano-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidine.

24) - A compound according to claims 5 and 6, wherein
said compound is selected from the group consisting of:

- N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide;
- N-ethyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide;
- 5 N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-benzenesulfonamide;
- N-ethyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-benzenesulfonamide;
- 10 N-prop-2-ynyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide;
- N-propyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide;
- N-ethyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide;
- 15 N-prop-2-ynyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-2-propanesulfonamide;
- N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide;
- N-butyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide;
- 20 N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-2-propanesulfonamide;
- N-ethyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-2-propanesulfonamide;
- 25 N-propyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-2-propanesulfonamide;
- N-butyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-2-propanesulfonamide;
- N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-2-phenylethanesulfonamide;
- 30 N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-2,2,2-trifluoroethanesulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-2-chlorobenzenesulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-3-chlorobenzenesulfonamide;

5 N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-4-chlorobenzenesulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-2,4-dichlorobenzenesulfonamide;

10 N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-3,4-dichlorobenzenesulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-2-cyano-benzenesulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-3-cyano-benzenesulfonamide;

15 N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-4-cyano-benzenesulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-3-nitro-benzenesulfonamide;

20 N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-4-nitro-benzenesulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-2-thiophenesulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-5-methyl-4-isoxazolyl-sulfonamide;

25 N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-2-trifluoromethyl-5-methyl-3-furyl-sulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-6-(morpholin-4-yl)-3-pyridyl-sulfonamide;

30 N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-2,4-dimethyl-5-thiazolyl-sulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-cyclopropylsulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-benzylsulfonamide;

5 N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-vinylsulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-3,5-dimethyl-4-isoxazolyl-sulfonamide;

10 N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-1,3,5-trimethyl-4-pyrazolyl-sulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-propanesulfonamide;

15 N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-butanesulfonamide; and

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-cyclopentylmethanesulfonamide.

20 25) - A compound according to claim 7 wherein said compound is 7-(3-(2-isothiazolyldinyl-1,1-dioxide)-phenyl)-3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidine.

25 26) - A compound according to claims 8 and 9 wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting of:

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(benzoyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide;

N-ethyl-N-{3-[3-(benzoyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide;

30 N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(benzoyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide;

N-ethyl-N-{3-[3-(benzoyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide;

N-prop-2-ynyl-N-{3-[3-(benzoyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide; and
N-prop-2-ynyl-N-{3-[3-(benzoyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide.

5

27) - A compound according to claims 10 and 11 wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting of:

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(fluorobenzene-4-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide;

10 N-ethyl-N-{3-[3-(fluorobenzene-4-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(fluorobenzene-4-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide;

15 N-ethyl-N-{3-[3-(fluorobenzene-4-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide;

N-prop-2-ynyl-N-{3-[3-(fluorobenzene-4-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide; and

N-prop-2-ynyl-N-{3-[3-(fluorobenzene-4-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide.

20

28) - A compound according to claims 12 and 13 wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting of:

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(4-methylbenzoyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide;

25 N-ethyl-N-{3-[3-(4-methylbenzoyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(4-methylbenzoyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide;

30 N-ethyl-N-{3-[3-(4-methylbenzoyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide;

N-prop-2-ynyl-N-{3-[3-(4-methylbenzoyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide; and

N-prop-2-ynyl-N-{3-[3-(4-methylbenzoyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide.

29) - A compound according to claims 14 and 15 wherein
5 said compound is selected from the group consisting of:
N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(4-methoxybenzoyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide;
N-ethyl-N-{3-[3-(4-methoxybenzoyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide;
10 N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(4-methoxybenzoyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide;
N-ethyl-N-{3-[3-(4-methoxybenzoyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide;
N-prop-2-ynyl-N-{3-[3-(4-methoxybenzoyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide; and
15 N-prop-2-ynyl-N-{3-[3-(4-methoxybenzoyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide.

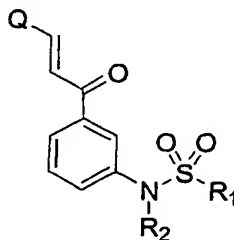
30) - A compound according to claims 16 and 17 wherein
20 said compound is selected from the group consisting of:
N-{3-[3-(5-methyl-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-yl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide; and
N-ethyl-N-{3-[3-(5-methyl-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-yl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide.

31) - A compound according to claims 18 and 19 wherein
said compound is selected from the group consisting of:
N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(pyridin-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide;
30 N-ethyl-N-{3-[3-(pyridin-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide;
N-prop-2-ynyl-N-{3-[3-(pyridin-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(pyridin-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]
pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide;
N-ethyl-N-{3-[3-(pyridin-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]
pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide; and
5 N-prop-2-ynyl-N-{3-[3-(pyridin-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]
pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide.

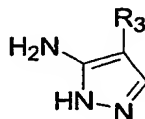
32) - A compound according to claims 20 and 21 wherein
said compound is selected from the group consisting of:
10 N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(pyridin-4-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]
pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide;
N-ethyl-N-{3-[3-(pyridin-4-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]
pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide;
N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(pyridin-4-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]
15 pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide;
N-ethyl-N-{3-[3-(pyridin-4-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]
pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide;
N-prop-2-ynyl-N-{3-[3-(pyridin-4-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]
pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide; and
20 N-prop-2-ynyl-N-{3-[3-(pyridin-4-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]
pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide.

33) - A process for preparing a compound of formula
(I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,
25 according to claim 1, comprising reacting intermediate
(II):



(II)

wherein R_1 and R_2 are as defined in (I) and Q is an appropriate leaving group selected from the group consisting of N(dialkyl(C_1-C_6)), alkylthio(C_1-C_6) and alkoxy(C_1-C_6), with intermediate (III):



(III)

10 wherein R_3 is as defined in (I) and alternatively, treatment of the compounds of claim 1, in the form of free base, with an acid to form a salt thereof.

15 34) - A process according to claim 33, comprising utilizing the intermediate of formula (II) where Q is selected from the group consisting of dimethylamino, methylthio and methoxy.

20 35)- A method for treating or preventing diseases associated with GABA_A receptor modulation in a mammal which comprises administering to said mammal an effective amount of a compound of claim 1.

25 36) - A method for treating or preventing diseases associated with α_1 -GABA_A receptor modulation in a mammal which comprises administering to said mammal an effective amount of a compound of claim 1.

30 37)- A method for treating or preventing diseases associated with α_2 -GABA_A receptor modulation in a mammal

which comprises administering to said mammal an effective amount of a compound of claim 1.

5 38) - A method for treating or preventing anxiety in a mammal which comprises administering to said mammal an effective amount of a compound of claim 1.

10 39) - A method for treating or preventing epilepsy in a mammal which comprises administering to said mammal an effective amount of a compound of claim 1.

15 40) - A method for treating or preventing sleep disorders in a mammal which comprises administering to said mammal an effective amount of a compound of claim 1.

41) - A method for treating or preventing insomnia in a mammal which comprises administering to said mammal an effective amount of a compound of claim 1.

20 42) - A method for inducing sedation-hypnosis in a mammal which comprises administering to said mammal an effective amount of a compound of claim 1.

25 43) - A method for inducing anesthesia in a mammal which comprises administering to said mammal an effective amount of a compound of claim 1.

30 44) - A method for modulating the necessary time to induce sleep and its duration in a mammal which comprises administering to said mammal an effective amount of a compound of claim 1.

45) - A method for inducing muscle relaxation in a mammal which comprises administering to said mammal an effective amount of a compound of claim 1.

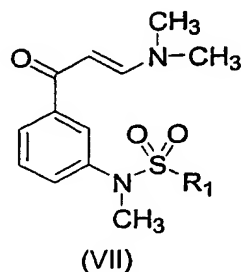
5 46) - A composition comprising a compound of claim 1 in association with a therapeutically inert carrier.

47) - The use of a compound of claim 1 for preparing a medicament for treating or preventing diseases associated with GABA_A receptor modulation.

48) - The use of claim 47 wherein the diseases are associated with α_1 -GABA_A or α_2 -GABA_A receptor modulation.

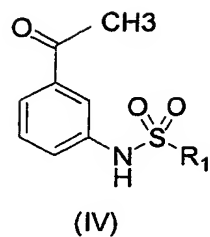
15 49) - The use of a compound of claim 1 for preparing a medicament for treating or preventing anxiety, epilepsy, sleep disorders, insomnia, for inducing sedation-hypnosis, anesthesia or muscle relaxation or for modulating the necessary time to include sleep and its duration.

20 50) - A process for preparing the intermediate of formula (VII):



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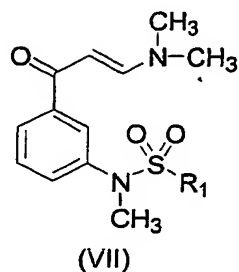
wherein R₁ is as described in (I), characterized by the reaction of the intermediate of formula (IV):



wherein R_1 is as described above, with N,N-dimethylformamide dimethyl acetal.

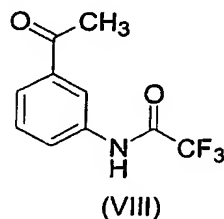
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51) - A process for preparing the intermediate of formula (VII):



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wherein R_1 is as described in (I), characterized by the reaction of N-(3-acetylphenyl)-2,2,2-trifluoroacetamide (VIII):



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and N,N-dimethylformamide dimethyl acetal, followed by the formation of sulfonamide by reaction with the corresponding sulfonic acid chloride.

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